Other major initiatives taken by the Government of India for Development of fishery sector in the country includes, setting up of Coastal Aquaculture Authority for regulation of Coastal Aquaculture, promulgating a comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy for all round development of marine fisheries, steps taken to augment exploration of fishries resources of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, causing the States/Union Territories to promulgate Marine Fisheries Regulation Acts, steps being taken to set up a National Fisheries Development Board. Besides meeting the State's share in the above Centrally Sponsored Schemes, States are also implementing their own schemes/programmes for development of fisheries.

Closing down of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

*295. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited was closed down;

(b) the number of employees who lost their jobs;

(c) whether there is any request from the Karnataka Government to continue mining operations at Kudremukh; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to rehabilitate the employees of KIOCL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has not closed down. Mining activities at Kudremukh have been closed down with effect from 1.1.2006 under the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) None.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has expressed its view before the Monitoring Committee, constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) under orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court that mining in Kudremukh be continued at least for a period of 5 years.

(d) In view of (b) above, does not arise.